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Board of Trustees Announce Rate Increase at Hosp

The Board of Trustees of Wasatch County Hospital announced that effective February 1, 1970, the room rates will be increased by \$2.00 per day. The increase will make room rates at the hospital \$32.00 for a semi-private room and \$34.00 for a private room.

The board gave as reason for the increase as rising hospital costs with many suppliers having raised their prices by 8 percent during the past year and also the mandatory raise in the minimum wages for hospital employees from \$1.30 per hour to \$1.45 per hour effective February 1, 1970.

Even with the increase in room rates the price per day is still considerably lower than the larger hospitals in Salt Lake and Utah County where \$4.00 to \$6.00 increases have either been announced or are contemplated. Comparable rates for a semi-private room range from \$35.00 to \$47.75 per day depending on the size of the hospital and from \$38.00 to \$49.75 for a private room.

When speaking of the rate increase, Mr. Schloss, the Hospital Administrator, indicated that the room rate which the hospital has more realistically labeled the "Daily Service Charge" includes the cost for the room, nursing service with the exception of Special Duty Nurses; meals, including services of a dietician; and all other administrative and basic special services required to maintain the hospital patient.

